

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for speech recognition of the present application has a process to collate, with an input utterance, an acoustic model corresponding to a hypothesis to be expressed by the connection of utterance segments, such as phonemes or syllables, and developed according to a length of an input utterance by an inter-word connection rule thereby obtaining a recognition score. Within a word of the hypothesis, the similar hypotheses high in utterance score within a predetermined threshold from the maximum value of the score are all held to a word end irrespectively of the number of hypotheses. Meanwhile, at a word end of the hypotheses, the hypotheses are narrowed to a predetermined number of upper ranking in the order of higher score.